

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 914

By Litz

A RESOLUTION to recognize Ashlee Miller of Morristown for her great skill in championship competition in the sport of Rodeo at both the high school and collegiate level.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are pleased to specially recognize those outstanding and committed young people of this State who have risen to great heights in their respective sports, continually striving to improve their individual performances and becoming role models for their peers and leaders of whom we all can be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such dedicated young athlete is Ms. Ashlee Miller of Morristown, a freshman at the University of Tennessee at Martin, who began her equestrian career at age two with her pony, Blaze, in a lead line class competition; her precocious entry into the world of horses is not surprising considering the fact that many of her family members were already rodeo enthusiasts; and

WHEREAS, by the time Ashlee entered the sixth grade, her mother, Betty, decided that her daughter was ready for a horse, having outgrown her pony, and that Christmas she received one; she spent many hours practicing with her older brother Steve, a competitor in rodeos and other horse shows; and

WHEREAS, as a seventh-grader, Ashlee "inherited" her cousin Kelly Miller's barrel horse and quickly became involved in barrel racing and rodeo competition; by the following year she was ready to attempt junior rodeo competition; and

WHEREAS, Ashlee acquired Allie as a barrel horse, but trained her for other events as well, and Ashlee still rides her in pole-bending competition; her next mount was Straw, her favorite, and one who would help her win many titles during her high school rodeo career; and

WHEREAS, Straw was named the Tennessee High School Rodeo Association (THSRA) American Quarter Horse of the Year in 2001 and 2002, and was selected for the Co-op Equine Hall of Fame in 2003; and

WHEREAS, Ashlee began competing in the THSRA, which has 79 student members across the state, when she entered Morristown-Hamblen High School East; over the next four years she won numerous events and served in several leadership roles, including a term as THSRA president in 2002-2003; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Miller competed in all THSRA events: barrel-racing, pole-bending breakaway-roping, goat-tying, team roping, and cutting; among her accomplishments are four consecutive titles as All-Around Cowgirl Champion from 2000-2003, Rookie Cowgirl, Breakaway Roping Champion in 2000 and numerous reserve champion and other awards; and

WHEREAS, Ashlee qualified to compete in the National High School Finals Rodeo, along with more than 1,500 contestants from 39 states, four Canadian provinces and Australia, where she competed in three or more areas each of the four years in which she took part; in addition to six hand-tooled saddles and numerous saucer-sized silver belt buckles, she earned college scholarships worth several thousand dollars; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Miller is now enrolled at UT Martin where she is studying physical therapy on her scholarship winnings; she is also a standout with the University's rodeo team, which boasts a long-standing tradition of excellence and a high national ranking; she practices daily to attain the coveted spots in the team lineup, which changes with every competition; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body pause to applaud such remarkable skill, persistence, dedication, and athleticism; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor Ashlee Miller on her winning ways and dedication to the sport of Rodeo, commend her for her commitment to excellence, and extend to her our heartiest wishes for every success and happiness in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

